Setting up of new Export Promotion Council

473. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI K. RAMAMOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up a new Export Promotion Council (EPC) exclusively for the Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) and the units located at SEZs and EPSs;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the specific role contemplated for the new Council and the advantages sought to be achieved, as distinct from the existing Confederation of Export Units representing exporters from the EOUs segment; and

(c) the present number of export-oriented units functioning in the country and the total value and volume of exports, as percentage of the total exports of the country generated by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A separate Export Promotion Council for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Unit of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has been set up to enhance exports from this sector. The EPC will function as an approved trade body like other Export Promotion Councils and will facilitate functioning of units of this sector.

(c) As on 31/3/2002, a total No. 1621 EOUs and 639 units in SEZ were functioning in the country. The total value of export during year 2001-02 for EOUs was about Rs. 18745 Crores and that for SEZs Rs. 9190 Crores, which constituted 9% and 4.24% of the country's total export respectively.

Export of Iron-ore

†474. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron-ore is being exported;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.